

10/533143

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
(National Phase of International App.: PCT/JP03/13756, WO 2004/038841 A1)

#3

JC20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 27 APR 2005

In re the  
application of: **Seiji Sugiura, et al.**

International Application No.: **PCT/JP03/13756**

International Filing Date: **October 28, 2003**

U.S. Serial No.: **Not Yet Assigned**

Filed: **Herewith**

For: **FUEL CELL**

Attorney Docket No.: **TOW-099US**

Mail Stop PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Dear Sir:

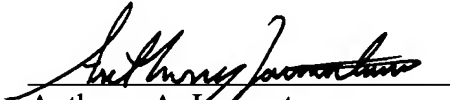
Applicants and their Attorney are aware of the following publications and information, listed on the attached PTO Form SB-08, and in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97 hereby submit these publications for the Examiner's consideration.

References A2-A5 and A10-A13 were cited in an International Search Report in the corresponding International Patent Application PCT/JP03/13756. Since the foregoing publications and search report have previously been transmitted to all the designated Offices by the International Bureau, Applicants do not enclose copies of those publications herewith. A PTO Form SB-08 also accompanies this statement.

This statement is not to be interpreted as a representation that the cited publications are material, that an exhaustive search has been conducted, or that no other relevant information exists. Nor shall the citation of any publication herein be construed *per se* as a representation that such publication is prior art. Moreover, Applicant understands that the Examiner will make an independent evaluation of the cited publications.

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(b)(1), no additional costs are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. However, please charge any necessary fees in connection with the enclosed statement to our Deposit Order Account No. 12-0080.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Date: April 27, 2005

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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (Use as many sheets as necessary)				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
				Application Number <b>10/533143</b>	
				Filing Date <b>Herewith</b>	
				First Named Inventor <b>Seiji Sugiura</b>	
				Art Unit <b>Not Yet Assigned</b>	
				Examiner Name <b>Not Yet Assigned</b>	
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number <b>TOW-099US</b>	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	A1	5,998,055	12-07-1999	Kurita, <i>et al.</i>	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
	A2	EP 0 459 940 A1	12-04-1991	Institute of Gas Technology		
	A3	JP 5-190187	07-30-1993	Institute of Gas Technology		
	A4	WO 92/04740 A1	03-19-1992	Allied-Signal Inc.		
	A5	JP 6-502957	03-31-1994	Allied-Signal Inc.		
	A6	JP 6-163063	06-10-1994	Institute of Gas Technology		abst
	A7	JP 08-222237	08-30-1996	Aisin AW Co. Ltd.		abst
	A8	EP 0 521 830 B1	01-29-1997	Institute of Gas Technology		
	A9	JP 10-106594	04-24-1998	Aisin Seiki		abst
	A10	WO 00 31815 A1	06-02-2000	Institute of Gas Technology		
	A11	JP 2000-164230	06-16-2000	Aisin Seiki Co. Ltd.		
	A12	JP 2000-323149	11-24-2000	Mitsubishi Heavy Ind. Ltd.		
	A13	JP 2002-530836	09-17-2002	Institute of Gas Technology		

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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